

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A closed loop continuous emulsion polymerisation apparatus comprising a circulation pump, a reactor tube which connects the outlet of the circulation pump to ~~its an inlet of the circulation pump~~, at least one monomer feed and ~~at least one feed for water phase for supplying raw materials~~, an outlet for the discharge of a polymer emulsion, ~~an additional a by-pass~~ tube for by-passing a pig around the circulation pump and a pig receiving station which is in parallel connection with the circulation pump or the reactor tube.
2. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pig receiving station is integrated into the additional tube for by-passing a pig around the circulation pump.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the circulation pump has a suction side and a delivery side and the reactor tube has an aperture through which ~~it~~ the reactor tube is in fluid communication with the suction side of the circulation pump and continues on to the delivery side of the circulation pump, the part of the reactor tube between the suction and delivery sides of the circulation pump serving as ~~a~~ the pig receiving station.
4. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the aperture is a slot extending substantially in the longitudinal direction of the tube.
5. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the width of the slot is smaller than the width of the pig.

6. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the width of the slot increases downstream.
7. **(Currently Amended)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reactor tube comprises a means for directing a the pig into the pig receiving station.
8. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a substantial part of the reactor tube forms at least one helical coil.
9. **(Currently Amended)** The polymerization apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pig detector for checking whether the pig is present in the pig receiving station.
10. **(Withdrawn)** A process for preparing emulsion polymer by means of the polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1.
11. **(Withdrawn)** The process according to claim 9, wherein a pig is launched at intervals ranging from 1 to 60 minutes.
12. **(Withdrawn)** The process according to claim 9, wherein a pig is launched at intervals ranging from 10 to 20 minutes.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets for Figure 1 and Figure 2 appear in Attachment 1 hereto. The replacement drawing sheets indicate the direction of fluid flow, as described in the Detailed Description section of the present application.